

Assessment of Convergence Environment applications 2016–2017

Criteria for assessment

1. Research

- a) To what extent is the proposed research ambitious with the potential to achieve ground-breaking results?
- b) To what extent does the proposed research address important research challenges?
- c) To what extent are the objectives beyond the state-of-the-art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches, development of novel methodology or development across disciplines)?
- d) To what extent does the proposed research fit with UiO's strategy for convergence in life sciences?
- e) To what extent are the outlined scientific approaches feasible?
- f) To what extent are the proposed research methodologies appropriate to achieve the goals of the convergence environment?
- g) To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified?

2. Project leader and team and convergence environment organization

- a) To what extent is the track record of the project leader and principal investigators characterized by the ability to propose and conduct groundbreaking research that goes beyond the state-of-the art?
- b) To what extent has the project leader demonstrated good leadership of research groups, including training of early career researchers?
- c) To what extent do the principal investigators have expertise of essential importance to conduct the proposed research?
- d) To what extent is successful accomplishment of the main research objectives dependent on the described research collaboration in the proposed convergence environment?
- e) To what extent is the described research team and expertise optimal for the proposed research?
- f) To what extent are the structure, organization and size of the convergence environment optimal for the proposed research?
- g) To what extent is the proposed convergence environment appropriately supported by host and participating UiO departments/institutes?

3. Responsible research and innovation (RRI)

- a) To what extent do planned RRI activities address probable societal concerns, legal issue and support stakeholder's engagement?
- b) To what extent may results from the project generate a foundation for new innovations?
- c) To what extent do plans for dissemination address key users of the research results?
- d) If the scientific field is characterized by a gender imbalance, are the plans to support development of research talents of the under-represented gender appropriate?

Overall assessment

- Overall assessment describes the overall view of the application, based on the assessment criteria.

Confirmation

By completing and submitting this form, I confirm the following:

- I do not have a conflict of interest and am qualified to assess this application objectively.

- I understand and accept the guidelines for assessing applications for UiO:Life Science convergence environments. I have read and understood both the criteria I have been asked to use for assessing the application and the description of the scale of marks.
- I am qualified to conduct this assessment.

Assessment procedure

A grading scheme with letters A, B, C and D will be used.

- A denotes an application in the top 10%.
- B denotes an application in the top 25% but not top 10%.
- C denotes an application in the top 40% but not top 25%.
- D denotes an application in the lower 60%.

Sketches

The same main criteria for assessment will be used for sketches (stage 1) and for complete applications (stage 2) bearing in mind that sketches will be more rudimentary and applicants have not yet been asked to address each point listed in the criteria. Specifically, applicants were told that point 1g and 2g would not be evaluated at stage 1 and were not given specific instructions for the RRI section. The main purpose of evaluating the sketches is to provide advice to applicants. **All sketches will be allowed to proceed to stage 2.**

Sketches are given one grade each for the three evaluated subheadings.

- Research
- Project leader and team and convergence environment organization
- Responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Additionally, reviewers should write 2 - 5 sentences of evaluation as an explanation for each given grade. The lower the grade, the more important the explanation will be.

Each reviewer will receive all sketches (31 in total), but will be asked to review approximately 10 sketches. There will be three evaluations of each sketch.

Evaluation of sketches must be submitted by December 15th 2016.

Full application

The same criteria for assessment will be used for complete applications (stage 2). Each reviewer/panel member will receive all applications but will be asked to review approximately 10 applications. There will be three evaluations of each application. Applications are given one grade each for the three evaluated subheadings.

- Research
- Project leader and team and convergence environment organization
- Responsible research and innovation (RRI)
- Additionally, each application is given an overall grade. When determining the overall grade, Research should account for 50%, Project leader and team and convergence environment organization for 33% and RRI for 17%.

Deadline for submission of full applications is March 1st 2017. Applications will be forwarded to reviewers as soon as possible after this deadline. Evaluation of applications (4 letter grades and brief written evaluation) should be submitted by April 15th 2017.

Panel meeting and final scientific evaluation of all applications

A one and a half day meeting of the panel will take place in Oslo on April 24th and 25th 2017. Panel members should arrive in the evening on the 23rd and will be able to depart after lunch on the 25th.

All applications will be discussed and graded by all panel members. A number scheme from 1-10 will be used for grading the three evaluated subheadings.

Number grades correspond to the following letter grades.

- 9-10 corresponds to A.
- 7-8 corresponds to B.
- 5-6 corresponds to C.
- 1-4 corresponds to D.

The discussion of each application will be initiated by the reviewing panel member, which gave the highest overall letter grade for the application. The panel member, which gave the lowest score will follow, and then the panel member, which gave the middle score. After the three panel members that were asked to score the application in advance have spoken, the application is open for general discussion. Each application should be discussed for about 15-20 minutes.

Panel members are encouraged to give their personal grade to all applications during the discussion session. Should individual members have a conflict of interest regarding a specific application or if they have other reasons not to grade a specific application, they may opt out.

The total sum score for each application will be the sum of each average score multiplied by a factor

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 * \text{Average grade "Research"} \\ + 2 * \text{Average grade "Project leader and team and convergence environment organization"} \\ + 1 * \text{Average grade "Responsible research and innovation (RRI)"} \\ \hline = \text{Total score} \end{array}$$

The total score will give a rank that will be submitted to the board of UiO:Life Science, which will determine which applications are funded. Strategic decisions mandating somewhat balanced participation from various units at UiO may be grounds for the board to not strictly adhere to the numbered rank.